



## Coleen Kirsty Zahnke

October 9, 1965 - August 30, 2020

Big Stone Gap, Virginia

Coleen Kirsty Zahnke 54, departed this life on Sunday, August 30, 2020 after an extended battle with Cancer.

Kirsty had an energy for life that radiated to those around her. She had a love for Art, the outdoors, hiking, and Animals. She graduated from Powell Valley High School. She then attended the University of Virginia Tech where she earned a bachelors degree in the study of Biology , along with a bachelors in Animal Science. Her life took her on many wonderful adventures around the globe, she traveled extensively - Indonesia, Africa, Europe, Central and South America where she enjoyed backpacking and seeing nature. She enjoyed being an organic farmer in the Olinger Community. Her love and energy was contagious, and she will be deeply missed by all those that knew her.

She was preceded in death by her father, Dr. Wolfgang Zahnke, both her Maternal and Paternal grandparents.

She is survived by her husband Dr. Clay Skarda, her two children; Liarucha and Gareth Zahnke-Basuki, her mother Fiona Zahnke, her sister Serena Zahnke, her brother, Dr. Kim Zahnke, three nieces; Yraine Miller-Zahnke, Aubrey Zahnke, & Maura Zahnke, other close relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends for a committal service on Saturday, Sept 5 2020 at Riverview Cemetery in East Stone Gap, VA at 11 a.m. Those wishing to attend and celebrate Kirsty's life are asked to join the family on that day.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Elizabeth Cooperstein and Husband Mark , Along with great friends Peggy Mathews, Steve Brooks and Maxine Kenny and many others who have supported Kirsty in her journey.

You may go online to view the obituary, sign the guest registry, or leave the family a condolence at [www.holdingfuneralhome.com](http://www.holdingfuneralhome.com)

Holding Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Riverview Cemetery

East Stone Gap Road  
East Stone Gap, VA 24246

# Previous Events

## Committal Service

SEP 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Riverview Cemetery  
East Stone Gap Road  
East Stone Gap, VA 24246

# Tribute Wall



“ *Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*

October 07, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Lynn Tobey lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



Lynn Tobey - May 03, 2023 at 09:37 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Lynn Tobey - September 16, 2020 at 08:33 PM



“ *Scott Heinrichs purchased the Tropical Tribute Spray for the family of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke.*



Scott Heinrichs - September 04, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke.



September 04, 2020 at 06:41 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke.



September 03, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ Dear Kim, Aubrey and Moira,  
I Think of you so often and my heart aches at the loss of your sister and Aunt. Many hugs and many prayers.  
Lovingly, Carolyn Doerfert

**Carolyn Doerfert** - September 02, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ So sad to learn of Kirsty's passing. She was an example to us all, following her dreams and showing us the way. She will be terribly missed. --Margaret Crouch and Overmountain Weavers (Kingsport TN).

**Margaret Crouch** - September 02, 2020 at 05:37 PM


PW

“ *Paula Phillips Welch lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



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**Paula Phillips Welch** - September 01, 2020 at 08:55 AM

 Bonnie Sue-ellen Bolling

“ *Bonnie Sue-ellen Bolling lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



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**Bonnie Sue-ellen Bolling** - August 31, 2020 at 10:32 PM

MJ

“ *What a remarkable soul who will be missed.*



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**Melanie L Jorgensen** - August 31, 2020 at 10:09 PM

JW

“ *Janet Wilson lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



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**Janet wilson** - August 31, 2020 at 07:46 PM

JP

“ *Judy Pearce lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



Judy Pearce - August 31, 2020 at 07:35 PM

JP

*Such a warm smile. Thank you, Kirsty, for being in my world.*

Judy Pearce - August 31, 2020 at 07:36 PM

MB

*Gary and I send our sincere sympathy to the Zahnke family in the passing of Coleen. She had a remarkable life in her 54 years. The Bumgarner*

marilyn bumgarner - August 31, 2020 at 10:32 PM

CE  
McKinney-  
Douglas

“ *CE McKinney-Douglas sent a virtual gift in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



CE McKinney-Douglas - August 31, 2020 at 06:30 PM

LT

“ *Lynne Tull lit a candle in memory of Coleen Kirsty Zahnke*



Lynne Tull - August 31, 2020 at 05:46 PM